formulating appropriate schemes and policies for all round improvement in welfare.

Families below Poverty Line (BPL) in Maharashtra

1001. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than six million families in Maharashtra are below the poverty line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government are taking or propose to take to reduce BPL families in Maharashtra within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below the poverty line. As per the latest estimates, 30.522 million persons in Maharashtra are estimated to live below the poverty line in 1993-94. On the basis of average household size of people around the poverty line in rural and urban areas as per the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 1993-94, the number of families below the poverty line in Maharashtra works out to 6.1 million in 1993-94;

(c) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, helath, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc. and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

Central aid for Janmabhoomi Programme in Andhra Pradesh

1002. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Central aid for implementation of Janmabhoomi programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal seeking for Central aid of Rs. 250 crore for implementation of Janmabhoomi programme in the State. The proposal was discussed on 15th January, 1998 in a meeting held in Planning Commission, wherein the representatives of the Union Ministry of Finance and the Government of Andhra Pradesh were present. The proposal could not be agreed to because of the resource constraints and the state Government was advised to accommodate the programme within their overall approved Plan Outlay.

Population Growth

1003. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1994-97 the population growth was 1.89%;

(b) what was the anticipated growth percentage;

(c) what is likely to be the effect of this growth after 15 to 18 years on the popu lation eligible for employment;